

In the claims:

1. **(original)**: A water-borne emulsion polymer comprising as copolymerized units the following monomers:

(A) an ethylenically unsaturated monomer containing at least one amino group;

(B) an ethylenically unsaturated monomer containing no amino group;

(C) optionally a hydroxy- or alkoxyalkyl(meth)acrylate of the formula



wherein R^1 is hydrogen or methyl and R^2 is hydrogen or C_1 - C_6 alkyl and t is an integer of 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6;

(D) a (poly)alkyleneglycolmono(meth)acrylate of the formula



wherein R^1 is hydrogen or methyl and R^2 is hydrogen or C_1 - C_6 alkyl and m is an integer of 2 or 3 and n is an integer of 2 to 30.

2. **(original)**: An emulsion polymer according to claim 1, wherein monomer (A) is an amino(meth)-acrylate, a vinylpyridine or a vinylimidazole.

3. **(currently amended)**: An emulsion polymer according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein monomer (A) is dimethylaminoethylmethacrylate, monomer (B) is styrene, monomer (C) is hydroxyethylmethacrylate and monomer (D) is methoxypolyethyleneglycol methacrylate.

4. **(currently amended)**: An emulsion polymer according to ~~any one of claim~~ ~~[[s]]~~ 1 ~~[[- 3]]~~ comprising in addition another dispersant and/or a common additive.

5. **(currently amended)**: An aqueous dispersion comprising ~~The use of the emulsion polymer according to claim 1, as dispersing agent in aqueous systems.~~

6. **(currently amended)**: ~~The use of the emulsion polymer according to claim 1 as dispersant for organic and/or inorganic pigments in an aqueous medium; for~~ A water-borne decorative paint ~~[[s or]], water-borne coating~~ ~~[[s]] or to produce Resin Free Pigment Concentrates (RFPC) for ultra low VOC coatings comprising the dispersion of claim 7.~~

7. **(original)**: A pigment dispersion comprising at least one organic and/or inorganic pigment; water and/or a mixture of water and a water miscible solvent and an emulsion polymer according to claim 1.

8. **(currently amended)**: A process for preparing a the water-borne emulsion polymer ~~as defined in~~ of claim 1, which process comprises the steps of:

- (i) mixing the monomers (A), (B), (C), (D) and an initiator (E); or mixing the monomers (A), (B), (C), (D), water and an initiator (E) to establish a premix;
- (ii) adding the premix into water containing an initiator (E),
- (iii) polymerizing the premix to the emulsion polymer.

9. **(currently amended)**: A process for preparing a the water-borne emulsion polymer ~~as defined in~~ of claim 1, which process comprises the steps of

- (i) mixing the monomers (A), (B), (C), (D), water, an initiator (E) and a surfactant (F) to establish a premix;
- (ii) adding the premix into water containing an initiator (E) and a surfactant (F),
- (iii) polymerizing the premix to the emulsion polymer; or the steps of
 - i) mixing the monomers (A), (B), (C), (D), water, an initiator (E), a surfactant (F) and a chain transfer agent (G) to establish a premix;
 - (ii) adding the premix into water containing an initiator (E) and a surfactant (F)
 - (iii) polymerizing the premix to the emulsion polymer.

10. **(currently amended)**: A water-borne emulsion polymer obtained ~~obtainable~~ by a process according to claim 8. ~~9 or 10~~.

11. **(new)**: An emulsion polymer according to claim 2 comprising in addition another dispersant and/or a common additive.

12. **(new)**: An emulsion polymer according to claim 3 comprising in addition another dispersant and/or a common additive.

13. **(new)**: A water-borne emulsion polymer obtainable by a process according to claim 9.